THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.NC

Saturday, the 24th April 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 2-30 p.m., Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Number of relief shops in the deficit districts.

* 78 Q.—SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of relief shops opened in the deficit districts within 15th February 1948;

(*b*) the number of days in the week during which grains were distributed; and

(*c*) the quantity of grains distributed in these shops till 15th February 1948?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) A statement [a] showing the particulars asked for is placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" Sir, may I draw the attention of the Government that next to Ramnad and Tinnevelly, the largest quantity of grains distributed in the relief shops, is in South Kanara and that South Kanara is now included among the deficit districts? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Sir, the location of a relief shop is not based upon either the surplus or the deficit nature of the district with regard to foodgrains. Various reasons there are, on account of which there is deficit either due to grains not being available or grains having been drained away from that area and when once this scarcity of grains and consequent high prices occur, then we open relief shops in that area. The purpose for it is twofold. One is to make grains available to the people at controlled rates. When once grains at controlled prices are released in the market, high prices will automatically come down. Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts are nearly famine districts. Their consumption is not very great and relief shops are not properly used there, and it is no indication either of the surplus or the availability of the grains. It is only to meet a situation consequent upon the introduction of decontrol, we have got these relief shops as a safety valve."

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 340 infra.

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, out of these fourteen districts, may I know how many are surplus districts? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" For instance, Madura was a surplus district till recently. Chingleput is again one."

SRI D. MANJAYA HEGDE :—" Since how long the district of South Kanara is a deficit district? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" According to the statistics of production and population, it is seen that it is a surplus district. We calculate the total grains harvested in the district for the year and then we divide it according to the number of persons in the district and if it is more than one pound, then we call it a surplus district."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I take it that South Kanara district is a deficit district as it does not satisfy the standards laid down by the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" According to the standards laid down by the Government, it is not. Unfortunately, we have not got the figures of population before us. If hon. Members could take a little trouble of referring to the proceedings of the other House the day before yesterday, we can easily calculate and see that it is a surplus district according to the formula laid down by the Government."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know if it is the policy of the Government to give both rice and millets whether a district is deficit in millets or not?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The policy of the Government is to give foodgrains to the people. If some people in a district eat rice and the majority of the people use millets, the return from that district is taken into consideration to see how much rice could be made available for the district; in the event of either becoming scarce, the Government is certainly prepared to issue rice or maize."

SRI D. MANJAYA HEGDE :—" May I know whether South Kanara is a rice-eating district or a millet-eating district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is a rice-eating district."

SRI D. MANJAYA HEGDE :—" May I know how can it be a surplus district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is a surplus district, so far as rice is concerned, on the basis of the formula that I have explained."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to know whether Chingleput is a predominantly millet-eating or producing district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is a rice-eating district."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" In that case, why millets are supplied in the district more than rice?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Distribution of millets depends upon the quantity available. If we do not have enough stocks of rice and we have more millets, we cannot ask people to starve. Therefore, we issue some grains that is at our disposal so that people may not starve. There is also the position that we have not got enough rice stocks and we have got to work out some method so as to give small quantities of rice or equal quantities of millets, in order to regulate the distribution of these grains."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" When Chingleput is a rice-eating district, may I know what is the need for distributing large quantities of millets in that district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is because we have got more millets and less rice."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Do you expect the leeway to be made up and that more rice should be produced in our province? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" That is another question. We were facing deficit in these three months. If the hon. Member undertakes to give us more rice, the Government will only be too glad and will be prepared to take anything in the nature of help from him."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" In districts self-sufficient in millets, will the Government revise their policy and give only rice to rice-eaters—even in small quantities that they can afford—instead of giving rice and millets together?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The policy of the Government depends upon and is controlled by stocks at their disposal. There is no use saying that particular people have got only particular habits of food. It is all true but it should have relationship to the quantity of stocks available with us for making equitable allocation to all the districts. Where we do not have, we necessarily have to do something to ward off starvation and we are obliged to distribute it according as we have stocks. We take care to see whether it is a predominantly rice-eating district or a millet-eating district but that does not mean that there can be no change at all. If after distributing millets stocks are still wanted it will be considered and rice would be given for the balance."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to column (4)? It says 'the number of days in the week during which grains *were* distributed '? May I know if the distribution is still going on or whether it has been stopped? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" This statement has been drawn up, I suppose, with reference to the question and

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when that question was asked, the information at the disposal of the Government was given. There are certainly days in which it was not issued and it is possible either because of the stocks in the depots being exhausted and there is nothing to give or the people do not care to buy from there. There are a number of relief shops not resorted to by people because grains are available in the market and people have no necessity to go to the relief shops. The idea of the Government in making the stocks available is to enable the poor people to get grains at cheap controlled rates and it is not our object to attract all the people to these shops. The relief shops are always open and the Government have recently issued a circular that seven days' quota of rice may be issued in cases where it is necessary. Every attempt is made to ensure the availability of grains in these relief shops so that people who want to buy, may avail themselves of it."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether in the districts where relief shops have been opened, they will be continued so long as the demand for them exists? "

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Certainly, Sir."

Industrial Disputes.

* 79 *Q.*—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of industrial disputes referred to in (1) a Board, (2) Court and (3) Tribunal and industries and trades involved in each dispute ;

(*b*) the names of persons who have been constituted as (1) Board, (2) Court and (3) Tribunal :

(*c*) in how many of the disputes have each of these three bodies announced their decision ;

(*d*) whether the decisions of all these bodies are binding on the parties concerned;

(*e*) whether there are any proposals to take power to enforce these decisions; and

(*f*) whether there have been instances in which the Government *suo moto* have referred disputes to any or all of these bodies even though the parties neither jointly nor separately asked for the reference of their disputes to any of these bodies.

The Hon. Sri H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) The number of disputes referred to Boards of Conciliation, Courts of Enquiry and Adjudicators or Industrial Tribunals up to the end of February 1948 are 6, 5 and 107 respectively. A statement [a] of industries and trades involved in these disputes is placed on the table.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 341 infra.